

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 00019 050821Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /114 W
-----072877 050825Z /17

R 050740Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3824
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0019

USNATO FOR ECONAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, ECON, UR
SUBJ: SOVIET FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES

REF: (A) MOSCOW 0039, (B) MOSCOW 0040 (NOTAL)

1. NEITHER WE, NOR FRG OR FRENCH CONOFFS HERE WITH WHOM WE
HAVE CHECKED, HAVE NOTICED ANY UNUSUAL SIGNS OF ENERGY
CONSERVATION IN LENINGRAD WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE CASE THAT
SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE ORDERED BROADER ENERGY SAVING
MEASURES. HOWEVER, OBSERVATIONS HERE THUS FAR ARE TOO SUB-
JECTIVE TO BE ENTIRELY CONCLUSIVE.

2. ON BALANCE SITUATION HERE IS CONSIDERABLY CLOSER TO
THAT IN MOSCOW THAN IN KIEV (AS DESCRIBED REFTTEL A). HEAT
LEVELS IN SOME APARTMENTS LOCATED IN CENTRAL LENINGRAD HAVE
BEEN NOTICEABLY LOWER THAN WAS CASE LAST YEAR, BUT OTHER
APARTMENTS CONTINUE TO HAVE HIGH, EVEN OVERHEATED, LEVELS
CHARACTERISTIC OF TYPICAL WINTER HEATING PATTERN HERE.

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HEAT LEVELS IN CONSULATE GENERAL BUILDING AND APARTMENTS
AND AT RESIDENCE HAVE BEEN NORMAL. WITH EXCEPTION USUAL
BREAKDOWNS, HOT WATER HAS BEEN AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT CITY.

3. THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE SIGN OF POSSIBLE TEMPORARY
ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURE DURING COLD SNAP BEFORE CHRISTMAS
WHEN CITY STREET LIGHTS ON ONE OCCASION WERE TURNED OFF AT

EXCEPTIONALLY EARLY HOUR. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, HOWEVER, STREET LIGHT SHUTOFF TIMES SINCE THEN HAVE BEEN NORMAL, COINCIDING WITH ONSET OF ADEQUATE DAYLIGHT. WE HAVE NOTED NOTHING STRIKINGLY UNUSUAL ABOUT OTHER LIGHTING PATTERNS. HOLIDAY LIGHTING DISPLAYS ON LENINGRAD STREETS WENT UP AT USUAL TIME THIS YEAR, WELL IN ADVANCE OF NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY--A FEW WERE EVEN ADDED TO LAST YEAR'S DISPLAYS--AND DISPLAYS STAYED UP FOR FULL HOLIDAY PERIOD.

4. AS RELATED ITEM, WE NOTED SOME LONG LINES AT GAS STATIONS IN IMMEDIATE PRE-NEW YEAR'S PERIOD AND FEW INSTANCES WHERE STATIONS WERE ENTIRELY OUT OF LOWER GRADE GASOLINE OR OPEN ONLY TO DIPLOMATS AND PRESUMABLY FOREIGNERS AND PRIVILEGED CUSTOMERS. SITUATION HOWEVER WAS BACK TO NORMAL IN DAY OR SO, SUGGESTING THAT GAS SHORTAGE WAS PROBABLY DUE TO TEMPORARY SUPPLY PROBLEM RESULTING FROM HEAVY HOLIDAY DEMAND.BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSERVATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LENING00019
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780008-0077
Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780197/aaaaddyo.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d5d38be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 39, 78 MOSCOW 40
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3825496
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES
TAGS: ENRG, ECON, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d5d38be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014